



# Valley Volunteer



NPS / D.J. REISER

Habitat Restoration crew with Bill Addis (second) and Fred Glock (fourth).

## Connections That Last

Happily, 2016 has arrived! The National Park Service is celebrating its 100th birthday and looking ahead to a vibrant future. We asked a few dedicated volunteers to reflect on what connects them to Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Their answers are personal, yet universal. Throughout their stories, themes of people, place, and purpose intertwine.

For Fred Glock, who has removed invasive plants in CVNP since 2006, connecting with people makes the biggest impact. The job is more than using loppers and a chainsaw. His greatest skill is convincing others to join the fight. Fred's passion for restoring native habitat allows him to speak to new recruits with knowledge and conviction. It's also the glue that binds a dedicated crew of regulars.

On Thursday mornings, Mary Jane Schremp shows her friendly face at Boston Store Visitor Center. She began volunteering in 2003 to express her love of wildlife. According to Mary Jane, the national park provides a daily surprise. The changing seasons may bring wildflowers along the Towpath Trail or an unexpected animal sighting. Each day offers something new to share with visitors.

Barry Taylor relocated from Toledo, in part, to live near CVNP. He studied botany in college, but followed a different career path. Volunteering has reawakened his interest in nature. The longer he's here, the more he knows the details and nuances of the place. Since 2011, he has found purpose in sharing his knowledge as a Wildlife Watcher.



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Recruiting Pat and Bill Addis for Quest Crew.

Bill and Pat Addis have lived near Cuyahoga Valley since before it became a national park. In 2012, the couple started exercising regularly on local trails and discovered Canalway Questing. This soon blossomed into a shared enthusiasm for volunteering. As part of Quest Crew, Bill and Pat spend countless hours discovering new corners of the park that will delight and educate visitors.

If you have a similar story about your relationship to Cuyahoga Valley—about your passion for this place, its purpose, and the people who support its mission—won't you join us? There is so much worthwhile work to be done. Together, we can shape the next century of the National Park Service.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Cuyahoga Valley National Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park's (CVNP) volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Other primary partners include Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Countryside. Together, we accomplish goals through mutually beneficial volunteer experiences. By engaging people through service, we build a community of park stewards.

Currently about **6,700** Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) donate over **220,000** hours assisting in over **100** different roles. We rely on these dedicated people to provide the highest level of quality services to our visitors and to help us protect America's heritage.



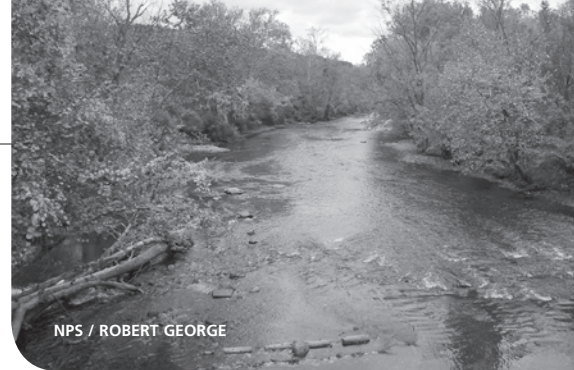
## The River Shapes the Future

by Andrew Bishop, Resource Management

What would this park be without the Cuyahoga River?

The “crooked river” has done more than physically shape the landscape. It has molded our society, culture, and economy from prehistory to today. Since fall 2014, park and partner staff—from the superintendent to seasonal employees—has contributed to a new Strategic Action Plan. We asked ourselves: during the next five years what change would have the greatest impact? The Cuyahoga River came to the forefront. Together, we crafted a powerful Vision for Change:

“In 2021, the Cuyahoga River, its communities, and Cuyahoga Valley



NPS / ROBERT GEORGE

Cuyahoga River

National Park are international symbols of human, urban, and ecosystem renewal.”

We agreed to work toward this goal as “one park”—staff, partners, and volunteers. Through this process, we are mapping out how to align efforts to achieve success.

Volunteers are integral to meeting park goals, adding untold value to resource protection and visitor experience. Your immense impact will continue through existing and new volunteer opportunities. What role will you have in the renewal of the Cuyahoga River?

## Survey Shows Excellent Visitor Satisfaction

Each July, CVNP distributes the Visitor Survey Card as part of a servicewide program. With a great deal of volunteer assistance, Rangers Rebecca Jones Macko and Jacki Zevenbergen distributed the 2015 cards.

Overall, we had 99% visitor satisfaction with facilities, services, and recreational opportunities! Many people—including park staff, partners, and volunteers—contributed to the great scores.

Below are specific percent satisfaction scores:

- Outdoor recreation – 99%
- Assistance from park employees – 98%
- Visitor center – 97%
- Exhibits – 97%
- Walkways, trails, and roads – 96%
- Ranger-led programs – 96%
- Learning about nature, history, or culture – 94%
- Campgrounds and picnic areas – 88%
- Restrooms – 86%
- Commercial services in the park – 84%

Volunteers also assisted with an in-depth 2015 visitor survey. Those results are available in March.



NPS / TED TOTH

Cuyahoga Valley National Park encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting.

## A Tale of Two Projects

There are more than 100 miles of trails to explore in CVNP. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the number is steadily growing. In 2015 crews accomplished two major projects.

The **East Rim Trail** is our national park's first mountain biking trail. Phase one is a 2.3-mile section that opened in November. From planning and construction to operations and maintenance, the Cleveland Area

Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) has provided critical support. CAMBA volunteers helped remove obstacles, smooth edges, and otherwise prepare the trail for bike and foot traffic. Their key role continues as the next 7 miles are built in 2016.

On the **Furnace Run Trail**, the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council (CVTC) completed a 0.8-mile section that arcs back to Everett Covered

Bridge. With support from the NPS Trail Crew, CVTC has used leadership and labor to clear, build, and maintain this loop. CVTC generously funded all the project materials.

Without the commitment and hard work of volunteers, CVNP's TRAILS FOREVER vision could never move forward. Thank you!



*Furnace Run Trail loop opens.*



*East Rim Trail*

## Volunteering as a Bridge to Employment

by Abby Minnick,  
*Resource Management*

You don't have to wait until retirement to dive into volunteering. Resourceful young adults can explore careers, meet potential mentors, and gain valuable work experience through service. Since 2010 I have accumulated over 2,000 volunteer hours in a variety of different and interesting ways. I began when The University of Akron selected me for the GLISTEN grant. I worked in Resource Management. If there was a task to do, I did it. Park science projects included monitoring vegetation, wells, and deer exclosures; electro-shocking fish; and collecting data on powerline rights-of-way. I improved habitat by

restoring river banks and removing invasive plants.

Other experiences, such as Alternative Spring Break, helped me meet new staff and branch into new areas. I served a year in AmeriCorps, successfully launching a Youth Conservation Crew (YCC) in summer 2015. As a volunteer services intern, my time was divided between the Volunteer Management Office and the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.

My next adventure is as a seasonal NPS employee helping to coordinate the BioBlitz, a Centennial special event in May 2016. Cuyahoga Valley has many opportunities if you are passionate, flexible, and hard-working. Ask what you can do to lend a hand.



*Abby Minnick*



# In the Spotlight

## Centennial Challenge

The Volunteer Management Office has a challenge for you in 2016. As you may know, this year marks the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. Here at Cuyahoga Valley, we host six Days of Service throughout the year (see page 8). If you volunteer for at least five, the Volunteer Management Office will award you with a complementary Centennial gift.

As park representatives, volunteers can also strive to engage as many other people in their national parks as possible. Make this the year you invite friends, family, and neighbors to join you. Let's do something positive together to ensure that CVNP is relevant and vital for generations to come.

## The Y Joins *Let's Move! Outside*

Through her *Let's Move!* campaign, First Lady Michelle Obama has been motivating American youth to develop healthy habits. On public lands, this sprouted into *Let's Move! Outside*. That offshoot got a big boost in 2015 when Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new national partnership with the YMCA. Cleveland was chosen as part of this 50 Cities Initiative. The overarching goal is to encourage future generations to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors through volunteerism.

In October 2015, CVNP hosted a summit bringing together community organizations, teachers, and prominent representatives throughout the greater Cleveland area. The group deliberated the positives, the challenges, and the objectives. Sound interesting? Look for opportunities to get involved as the next steps unfold.



## Lois Neff's New Role

In October 2015, Lois Neff became the new safety and occupational health manager. Her 28-year NPS career has largely been at CVNP as a commissioned Visitor and Resource Protection ranger. She began in the field and most recently supervised daily operations from Everett Ranger Station. Lois has been involved in safety for years, bringing extensive experience, skills, and knowledge to this critical position.



Lois Neff

Lois believes that volunteers are crucial to making CVNP a safer place to work and play. We can all do our part to bring safety to the forefront of all operations. Often on the front lines, volunteers may be the first ones to notice a hazardous situation. She encourages you to speak up and express any concerns to your supervisor.

## Volgistics

As you may have heard, CVNP is transitioning to Volgistics. This software creates a streamlined, consistent method of volunteer service reporting with many benefits. Have you been trained yet? By fall 2016, most volunteers will access its features from the comfort of their own computers. Anyone who isn't online can get assistance from the volunteer office.

Since the beginning of implementation, feedback has been positive.

Volunteer Marc Trundle commented, "Since many of the park volunteers are 'seasoned citizens,' I wondered how well gray-haired people (such as myself) would adapt to the new procedure. I am happy to report that Volgistics is very easy to use. I can accurately track my volunteer hours. This should relieve the rangers of a great deal of time-consuming paperwork."

Our staff likes Volgistics too. Connie Dages of the Conservancy explained, "The time savings for me as a supervisor is a real bonus. I no longer have to remember to send reminders for programs. It's like magic!"

# Volunteer Training

For detailed information about Training and Enrichment, visit [nps.gov/cvnp](http://nps.gov/cvnp) and click Support Your Park/Volunteer. The park's Volunteer Handbook lists what courses are required for each position. Registration is required three business days before class, except for the Enrichment Series. Contact the Volunteer Management Office at 330-657-2299 or [volunteer@forcvnp.org](mailto:volunteer@forcvnp.org).



Lock Demonstration volunteers

## Training in Interpretation

As representatives of CVNP, volunteers have the opportunity to engage, educate, and endear visitors to the park for years to come. By employing strategies of interpretation, volunteers can make a lasting impression on every visitor they encounter. These classes are also available online. For a schedule, visit our Training and Enrichment webpage listed above.

**Foundations of Interpretation** course provides the groundwork for what interpretation is, and how and why it works. This is a prerequisite for other interpretation classes.

**Informal Visitor Contacts** course captures the spontaneous types of interactions volunteers have with visitors, whether informational or interpretive.



Volunteer aboard the scenic railroad.

educational experience that is both meaningful and stimulating. Join us the second Tuesday of each month at Happy Days Lodge. Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. Lectures are 7 - 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Upcoming topics are posted at our Training and Enrichment webpage listed above.

## 2016 Safety Classes

*Saturdays, June 11, October 29,  
or March 4 (2017)*  
*Saturdays, April 23 and 30;  
Sunday, May 8; Monday, June 6;  
and Wednesday, June 8*

In fall 2015, CVNP selected four new volunteers to join the Safety Cadre. This group uses American Red Cross materials to train volunteers, park staff, and partners. Starting in 2016, CVNP will only offer one level of training: Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED with blood-borne pathogen protection. Classes are open to all volunteers, but those whose positions require certification will receive preference.

## Volunteer Orientation

This orientation provides volunteers with information such as the park's mission, vision, and partners, as well as CVNP's expectations and standards. Current volunteers are required to attend within the first six months of beginning to volunteer. Prospective volunteers can come learn how to get involved.

*Saturdays, June 11, October 29,  
or March 4 (2017)*  
10 a.m. - noon

*Thursdays, August 11, January 5,  
or April 13 (2017)*  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

## Enrichment Series

Looking for new insights about the park, information to share with visitors, and a peek behind the scenes? Volunteer enrichment provides an



# Volunteer Recognition

## Milestone Awards

We are proud to recognize the following volunteers for reaching these milestones in their cumulative hours of service during 2015.

**1,000 hours:** Bill Addis, Jon M. Andrus, Kathy Beck, William Beech, Claire Bennett, Francis Britton, Sarah Carlson, Elizabeth Cirino, Lonnie Cobb, Colette Cramer, Janet Crandall, Debbie Daniels, James Daniloff, Douglas Denton, Peter Effinger, Lou Elsaesser, Jerome Fertal, Susan Gaetjens, Nancy Grafton, Rosemary Gray, Cherie Harris, David Harris, Samuel Hevener, Tom Hovan, David Hughes, Kera Judy, Dick Keirnan, Desirae Kierner, Thomas Kovacevic, Terry Kovach, Charles Kraus, Ronald Kulikowski, Janet McClure, Charles Michener, Carol Mobley, Katherine Moore, Roy Moore, John Mulhauser, Allison Newberg, Janice Newhouse, Carmen Oyenque, John Pabst, Duncan Peters, Sherry Petryszyn, Ted Petryszyn, James Roszak, Lucy Sandberg, Mary Stewart, Jack Shott, Robert Wells, Carol White, Thomas Wilson, and Christine Yehle

**2,000 hours:** Agnes Armstrong, Joby Breitenbach, Dennis Conrad, Stephanie Cooper, John Coyne, Vern Davis, Joe DeAngelis, Gary Diefendorff, Evelyn Dolejs, Dorraine Duncan, Heather Ellis, Nancy Ellison, Richard Falkowski, Scott Jenkins, Philip Kinson, Diane Korfhage, Tom Kovach, SaraJane Kukawka, Alex Lee, Dave Lenigan, Kelsey Lipp, Rebecca MacKay, Michael Mikolaj, William



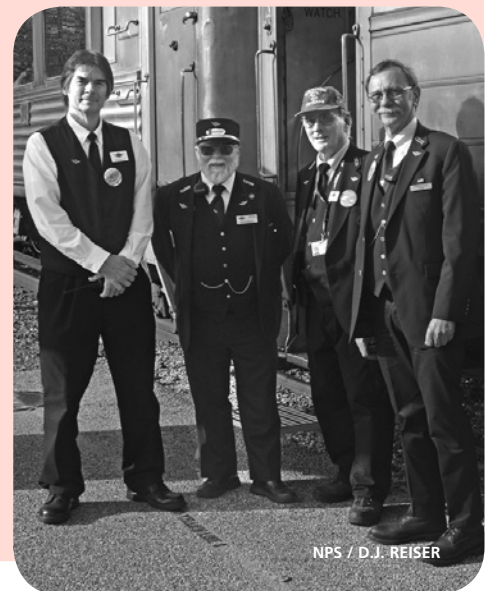
Walt Strotz, third from left

Miller, Abigail Minnick, Geoffrey Neeson, John Newby, Joyce Ng, Megan Nitzsche, Anne Robakowski, George Sillett, Mike Slivka, Mark Tobin, and Dorothy Wisniewski

**3,000 hours:** Joseph Cellura, Bernard Charnas, David Johnson, Jack Johnston, Mark Kroczyński, Richard Kroczyński, BettyLee Krol, Doug Pearson, Miriam Pendleton, Mary Phillips, Carol Schroeder, Jack Underwood, and Sean Veney

**4,000 hours:** Joshua Angelini, Kathy Birli-Green, Elizabeth Bonness, Carrie Cooper, Ken Crandall, Calvin Curnutte, Mike Gray, Gordon Hartschuh, Kyle Jacoby, David Kopkas, Kurt Korfhage, Alan Rice, Dennis Simms, Walter Strotz, Mike Szabo, and Christopher Ziska

**5,000 hours:** Trent Alberts, Ann Chasar, Susan Fritsch, Terri Igneczi, Thomas Johnston, Roger Judson, Bob Mobley, Tim Osyk, Craig Schneider, and Jack Williams



Conductor David Johnson, second from left.

## VIP Awards

**George and Helen Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service** recognize the efforts of exceptional individual volunteers and groups in the National Park Service. The 2016 individual nominees are Larry Grewe and Larry Hahn. The enduring service nominee is Ralph Gray. TRAILS FOREVER Volunteers is the group nominee.



Larry Hahn

## Parkwide Volunteer Picnic

The 2016 Parkwide Volunteer Picnic is Friday, September 9 from 6 - 9 p.m. Invitations will be sent to volunteers with 40 or more annual service hours.

# Volunteer Recognition

## Recognizing Volunteer Groups

We thank the following groups for their volunteer service in 2015:

Akron Chapter of AAZK  
America SCORES  
AmeriCorps National Civilian  
Community Corps  
Archbishop Hoban High School  
Boy Scout Troop 334  
Boy Scout Troop 575  
Case Western Reserve University  
CBIZ, Inc.  
Champion Middle School  
Cleveland Area Mountain Bike  
Association  
Cleveland Coating Society  
Cleveland Hiking Club  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History  
Cleveland Sight Center  
Cohen & Company  
College of Wooster - Outdoor Club  
Columbus State Community College  
CommuniTyler  
Cub Scout Pack 620  
Cub Scout Pack 3105  
Cub Scout Pack 3409  
Cub Scout Pack 3506  
Cuyahoga Community College -  
Upward Bound  
Cuyahoga River CWMA Team 1  
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy  
Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council  
Deloitte  
Eagle Scout Ian Forkapa



*Case Western Reserve students cut invasive plants.*

Eagle Scout Ron Tishma  
Environmental Design Group  
ERM Group Foundation, Inc.  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Findaway  
First Congregational Church of Hudson  
Friendly Inn Settlement House  
The Greenleaf Group  
Harvest Home  
Hudson Montessori School  
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams  
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores  
Kent State University  
Kent State University -  
Alpha Phi Omega  
Kent State University - Upward Bound  
Key Bank, Inc.  
Lakewood H2O

LINKS Family Connection  
L'Oreal  
Medina County Ohio  
Horseman's Council  
National Inventors Hall of Fame  
STEM Middle School  
Newbury Junior High  
The North Face  
Oberlin College - Youth Service Project  
OhioGuidestone  
Ohio State University - Upward Bound  
Open Doors Academy  
Padua High School Cheerleaders  
The Private Trust Co.  
Ritzman Community Learning Center  
Seton Catholic  
SSP Fittings Corporation  
St. Albert the Great Parish  
Stark State College - Upward Bound  
St. Hilary Catholic School  
St. Sebastian / St. Vincent  
Summer Camp  
Swagelok Manufacturing Company  
The University of Akron  
The University of Akron -  
Beta Alpha Psi  
University School  
US Bank  
Venture Crew 575  
Visions of Angels Youth Foundation  
Wal-Mart / Sam's Club  
Western Reserve Academy  
Woodridge Middle School



*Deloitte employees expand garden.*



*L'Oreal employee grades Hunt House path for wheelchair access.*





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
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# 2016

National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



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## Make a Difference!

Do you want to try something new? To find a list of current volunteer opportunities, visit [nps.gov/cuva](http://nps.gov/cuva) and click Volunteer. Support educational programs, visitor services, natural resource monitoring, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and administration. There are drop-in, seasonal, and year-round opportunities. Many of our ongoing volunteer positions have limited recruitment periods. Check our website regularly or sign up to receive the quarterly *Volunteer Opportunities E-News*.

## 2016 Days of Service

Individuals and groups are invited to lend a hand. Projects often include habitat restoration, trail work, and learning. Minimum ages vary by project. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advance registration is required. For details and sign up, visit [nps.gov/cuva](http://nps.gov/cuva) and click Volunteer, or call 330-657-2299.

### Earth Day

Saturday, April 23

### BioBlitz / RiverDay

Friday and Saturday, May 20 - 21

Special times and registration process.

### Trails Day

Saturday, June 4

### NPS Founders' Day

Saturday, August 20

### National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 24

### Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 22



NPS / TED TOTH

*Trail building on Founders' Day 2015.*

## The First NPS Founders' Day

Days of Service feature high-impact environmental stewardship projects that have immediately visible results. In 2015 CVNP added a new one:

NPS Founders' Day. Over 250 volunteers contributed more than 1000 hours of service. The majority, including 175 students from Kent State University, spent their morning planting approximately 500 trees at the Wetmore Restoration Area, a huge feat! Along the 5-mile Plateau Trail, volunteers conducted a "trail sweep" of light maintenance tasks. Others built new trail between Stanford House and the Hines Hill Campus, spreading trail mix and moving large stones.



TRAILS FOREVER

NPS Founders' Day 2016 has special significance: the National Park Service is turning 100 years old. With gloves, tools, and can-do spirit, let's make a positive impact on CVNP's future. We can't wait to see you out there!

**For a large-type version of this newsletter, call 440-546-5991.**